

CPYRIGHT

STATINTL

3 U. S. Prisoners in Shanghai Visited by Touring Americans

Yonkers Man Tells Callers

He Felt They Broke Law—

2 Priests Appear Unwell

CPYRIGHT

SHANGHAI, Sept. 19 (Reuters)—Three Americans imprisoned by the Chinese Communists were visited today by a group of young American tourists.

The prisoners are Hugh F. Redmond Jr., 37 years old, of Yonkers, a former business man; and two Roman Catholic priests, the Rev. Joseph McCormick, 64, of New York, and the Rev. John Wagner, 50, of Pittsburgh.

The prisoners were given only a few minutes' notice before the visit. Mr. Redmond, who is serving a life sentence on a charge of spying, was described as hostile and cold throughout most of the interview in a building of the Shanghai municipal prison.

The conditions, reactions and statements of Mr. Redmond and Father McCormick were reported by Steve Tyler of New York and his wife Pat. The Tylers are traveling in the party of young Americans who defied a United States State Department ban on travel to Communist China. Members of the group earlier had attended the Soviet Youth Festival in Moscow.

Prisoner Called 'Hard as Nails'

Dan O'Connell, one of the Americans who saw Father Wagner, reported that the priest was "very warm and delighted to see us." The prisoners were visited by separate groups from the touring party.

Mr. Redmond said he was suspicious of visitors because he could not understand how they had been allowed to come to Moscow and China. "I am an anarchist," he commented.

Mrs. Tyler said the visitors were certain the visitor, a former paratrooper, had not been converted to communism or "brainwashed." One of the group described him as "100 per cent American and hard as nails."

When he was asked, "Did



Associated Press

Hugh F. Redmond

you ever consider yourself to be politically conscious?" he replied:

"What is that—a Marxist question? I've been reading a lot of Marxist books and that seems familiar."

Mrs. Tyler said Mr. Redmond looked well and a bit young for his years. "My health is not so good, but I'm all right," he told his visitors.

[Mr. Redmond told the Americans he had been badly treated at first and had lost all his teeth from beri beri, according to The Associated Press. In the last year, he has been treated better, he said. Mr. Redmond declared that he had not worked for the United States Central Intelligence Agency, as was charged by the Chinese.]

Questioned about his opinion of Secretary of State Dulles, Mr. Redmond said: "From the stuff they give me to read—New China news service releases—you'd think Dulles was a goon. But I doubt whether they print all he says."

At the close of the interview Mr. Redmond disclosed that he had not been told about the

visit until five minutes before it began. At first he refused to see the tourists, he said, because "It was thinking that you had broken the American law by coming to China and I did not want to break the law myself by seeing you."

Mr. Redmond and Father McCormick live in a ten-room house separate from the city prison. They have free access to each other and can walk in the yard at will.

Mr. Tyler said Father McCormick looked bewildered and as though he were suffering from shock at seeing my visitors.

The priest was very thin, with a shirt much too large for him. He seldom looked at his questioners. He sat with his hand to his chin and watched the two white-coated guards most of the time.

He said he had never worked for any United States Government agency and never had any interest in politics. Replying to a question, he said communism in the Soviet Union represented anti-religion, but added: "I don't know anything about China."

Father Wagner also avoided answering political questions. He said he spent most of his time in hospitals because of asthma. Mr. O'Connell said the priest appeared to be in bad physical condition but was bright and cheerful and eager to talk about the United States.

Mother Relieved by Report

Mr. Redmond's mother, a school teacher who lives at 8 Floral Lane, Yonkers, said the account from the students who visited him confirmed earlier reports that he had remained "fanatically American."

Prisoners previously released from Communist China, she said, had told her of his good health and stubborn refusal to succumb to brainwashing.

Mr. Redmond went to Shanghai in 1946 to represent a United States exporting concern. His wife, Lillian, returned in 1949, but he was held on an espionage charge.

Mrs. Winfred McCormick of 481 West 165th Street, sister-in-law of Father McCormick, expressed concern over the report that his health had deteriorated. She said she had been receiving letters from him regularly, and though they were not very informative they were invariably cheerful.

CPYRIGHT